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THE WILSON BULLETIN

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FINDING THE NEST OF THE KNOT.

BY W. ELMER EKBLAW.

To ornithologists and bird lovers the world over the most important result obtained by the recent Crocker Land Expedition to the Arctic regions was undoubtedly the discovery of the nest and eggs of the knot (*Tringa canutus*). Two full clutches of eggs, the nests in which they were laid, and the sitting birds upon them, were brought back to the American Museum of Natural History of New York.

Few eggs have been so eagerly sought as those of the knot; for a hundred years or more the nesting-places of this bird, so common on our shores in migration time, had been known to be far arctic and probably circumpolar; almost every expedition to the North for the last century has been definitely instructed to seek the nest and eggs; yet until this latest American expedition, the knots had foiled all explorers and successfully guarded the secret of their nests.

To Dr. Harrison J. Hunt, surgeon to the expedition, falls the honor of the first authenticated record of the discovery. In the early summer of 1916 he found the nest and newly-laid eggs on a high plateau almost two miles back from Thulé, the little Danish trading station on the shore of North Star Bay. His successful find came as the climax to persistent search, and study of the habits of the knot,

for two seasons previous, by the various members of the party.

During the summer of 1914, Dr. M. C. Tanquary, zoölogist of the expedition, and I were stationed at North Star Bay to study the biology and geology of the region about Wolstenholme Sound. In the course of our field work we repeatedly saw the knots at many different places. They frequented most, and were most often observed about, several small ponds near the shore not far from the trading station, but they also fed along streams far inland, and flew over the plateaus along the ice-cap. Dr. Tanquary and I were constantly on the look-out for the nests, but for a long time could find no clue as to where we might expect to find them.

About the middle of June we were returning from an all-day tramp back toward the ice-cap in pursuit of our investigations when we flushed a bird from a *dryas*-covered plateau over which we crossed on our way to headquarters. We did not then have time to search thoroughly, so we carefully marked the locality, and agreed to come back the next day to look again. The next day a violent blizzard was raging, and foul weather continued for ten days, with the consequence that we failed to go back to the plateau as soon as we had intended.

When finally the storm abated, I set out at once to the locality, bent on finding the nest. With little difficulty I found the place; but before I had approached within a hundred yards of it a pair of knots flew away. When they were out of sight I hid among the rocks and awaited their return, confident that when they came back I could readily follow them among the rocks through my powerful Leitz glasses.

I waited about a quarter of an hour, when one of the birds stooped like a hawk and alighted near the spot where I had flushed the birds when they left. Most circumspectly it slowly made its way to a little depression and nestled down. I rushed to the spot and was repaid for my long search by seeing the bird flutter away in the characteristic

sand-piper manner. But instead of the much desired eggs, I found the tiny, downy nestlings, apparently hatched only a few hours before!

In my keen disappointment I eagerly searched the whole plateau, wandering to and fro, peering into every depression, for almost eight hours, but with no success. And all further search on the days following resulted only in disappointment.

The summer of 1915 I carefully hunted over the high plateaus about Etah, and though I felt sure several times that my patience was about to be rewarded, I was doomed to discouraging failure.

Then again the season of 1916 presented another opportunity for success at North Star Bay, where I knew so well the place to look for the nests. Dr. Hunt and I were then stationed at the place, and I told him when and where we might most profitably search. When nesting-time came I was ill with a slight attack of influenza, contracted apparently from germs brought up in our summer's post, and the task of finding the eggs devolved upon Dr. Hunt.

Shortly after midnight, on June twenty-eighth, the golden sunshine of Arctic night flooding all the Northland, Dr. Hunt started back into the hills on a search for the nests. He seemed to have been gone but an hour, though morning was well advanced, when he came back exultant with the good news that he had found the nest.

As soon as I was able to go out, I went with him to the plateau; and there, just as he had left them, well marked with small cairns of stones that he had piled up, were the nest and the bird sitting upon its eggs. It did not flush until we nearly pushed it off the nest, and even then reluctantly. Before it left we photographed it on the nest, the camera scarce a yard away. We then collected the three eggs in the clutch, the nest, and the nesting bird.

A few days later, after diligent and persistent search, Dr. Hunt found another nest with four eggs on the same plateau. These two nests, so far as known, are the only nests yet definitely reported with eggs. No doubt, now that

the character of the nesting-site and the habits of the bird in the nesting-time are known, other nests will be found.

The futility of former search for the nest has probably been due to two causes. The first is that the nesting-site is unusual for a shore-bird, in that it is placed high up on rocky plateaus far from the sea; the second is that the bird so closely resembles the environment in which the nest is placed that it feels sure of escaping detection, and does not flush even when in danger of being stepped upon.

MIGRATION RECORDS FOR KANSAS BIRDS.

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I.

INTRODUCTION.

The list of the birds of Kansas, published in 1913, by Mr. Bunker,[1] showed 379 species and subspecies that had been taken or authentically observed in the state. More recent unpublished revisions conducted under his direction have increased the list somewhat. The large collection of the museum and the careful manner in which the work has been done vouches for the reliability of these results.

Of the list of 379 as published 29 are accidental occurrences or are not found within the limits of the state. Ten are very rare; 79 others are listed as rare; and 23 of those remaining are subspecies or varieties, usually one eastern and the other western in distribution, which are of interest only to the taxomonist and are often not distinguishable except by computing averages of many specimens.

While all such should be taken into account in any exhaustive list of the birds of the state it is of course incorrect to say that Kansas is populated by nearly 400 species of birds. It is of course often a matter of judgment as to

[1] Kansas University Science Bulletin, Vol. 7, No. 5. June, 1913. By C. D. Bunker.

whether a given bird shall be considered very rare or rare or not rare. Besides some of the "rare" birds are as plentiful here as elsewhere in their range, but a fair consideration seems to place the number of those that can be considered bona fide Kansas birds at 220. If we include those that are rare but omit those that are very rare the list is increased to 300. Twenty-four of the not rare occur only in western Kansas, though many of this list are merely subspecies, scarcely distinguishable from the eastern form. Twenty-one occur only in the eastern part and four or more occur only along the southern border.

Analyzing the population still further we see that 42 of the 220 that are not rare are year-round residents; 98 are summer residents; 11 are winter residents only, and 82 are migrants. Here again, however, much depends upon the judgment, for many, such as bluebirds and robins and flickers migrate for the most part, but remain in small numbers; others, such as many of the migrating ducks, may occasionally spend the winter or summer with us.

It is the purpose of this paper to deal with the times of migrations and not the causes, but a word will not be amiss on this latter subject. It is almost universally agreed by those who have given the subject consideration that the primary controlling factor of migration is the food supply. Birds are better equipped than any other animals to withstand cold. But when cold weather cuts off the supply of insects and when snows threaten to cover up the plentiful supply of seeds there is nothing else to do but go where food may be had. In the spring, warblers and cuckoos may not come back until leaves appear, since they gather their food from the leaves. Flycatchers and swallows may not appear until insects are flying. Those that come early and those that spend the winter with us must have some source of food which they can depend upon. Instinct, however, which is a safe guide, comes in to supplant this primal impulse in guiding the bird's actions. Usually it does not change the time of migration a great deal, though we have many birds such as the pro-

thonotary warbler, orioles, and many others leaving just when food becomes most plentiful. Thus we see that migration is not merely a response to appetite.

II.

MATERIALS AND METHODS.

The data upon which this article is based are from two sources: museum records and field observations. My thanks are due to Mr. Bunker in charge of the museum collection here, who has placed at the writer's disposal the records of the museum collection which show the date upon which each specimen in the museum was taken. These records have supplied many data, all of which are of absolute reliability. My thanks are also due to Professor Frank Smith, of the University of Illinois, for the use of his unpublished data on the migration of Illinois birds covering a period of nine years. The writer, likewise, made daily trips in the fall migration season of 1916 and the spring of 1917, making careful records of all birds observed. In this work only absolute and unquestionable identifications have been recorded. Many birds seen, especially warblers and sparrows, had thus to be left off of the records even when the identification was fairly positive. For many of the more difficult birds dependence was placed entirely upon museum specimens. The field records here reported are considered to be above question. Circumstances, likewise, did not permit much study of the water birds. Records were also kept of the weather conditions and of the places visited and of the likelihood that birds would be found and allowances made for these. Likewise, it was recorded, where significant, whether the birds were seen in one flock or in different places.

In keeping records, close attention was given to the question whether the bird was to be expected in the locality visited and whether the bird was seen or heard, since the activitiy of the bird has much to do with its discovery. If a given bird was looked for in its proper habitat and not found a circle with a dot in the center was used to in-

dicate this; two dots meant an unusually careful search. If the fewness of those found seemed to indicate early arrival or the last to remain, a square below was used to indicate this.

Unless otherwise stated the fall dates given are for the year 1916, the spring dates for 1917.

PART III.

WATER BIRDS.

FAMILY COLYMBIDAE—GREBES.

3. *Colymbus auritus*—Horned Grebe.

A rare migrant. One specimen in the museum taken November 15, 1906, in Rice County.

4. *Colymbus migricollis californicus*—Eared Grebe.

Not common migrant or winter resident. There are four museum records for this species from April 14 to 24.

6. *Podilymbus podiceps*—Pied-billed Grebe.

A common migrant and rare summer resident. One was taken March 12 and seven between April 3 and May 13. The fall records show 38 between September 10 and October 31, and one November 15.

FAMILY GAVIIDAE—LOONS.

7. *Gavia immer*—Loon.

A rare migrant. There are six museum records between March 27 and May 23, and one for October 27.

FAMILY LARIDAE—GULLS AND TERNS.

51. *Larus argentatus*—Herring Gull.

A rare migrant and winter resident. The museum contains several specimens taken in winter and one on April 12.

54. *Larus delawarensis*—Ring-billed Gull.

A common migrant. Kansas is within the winter range, but there are no records of them in this season. The spring and fall records are not sufficient to show the range of the migration season. Specimens were taken on March 21 and 29 and four between October 12 and 22.

59. *Larus franklini*—Franklin Gull.

A rather common migrant. Seven specimens were taken by museum between April 1 and May 6 and four between October 20 and November 1.

60. *Larus philadelphia*—Bonaparte Gull.

A rare migrant. The one record is for March 6, 1903.

69. *Sterna forsteri*—Foster's Tern.

A not uncommon migrant. Kansas is within the summer range of this species, but there is no record of summer residence. There are four records between April 29 and May 11.

70. *Sterna hirundo*—Common Tern.

Rarely observed as a migrant. Kansas is within the summer range. No records in Kansas museum.

74. *Sterna antillarum*—Least Tern.

An intermittently common summer resident. No records of migration movements.

77. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*—Black Tern.

A common migrant and rare summer resident. These first observed about Lawrence in 1917 on May 7. Large numbers were daily observed between May 27 and June 4. Museum and field records are plentiful from September 3 to 14.

FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDAE—CORMORANTS.

120. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*—Double-crested Cormorant.

A rather common migrant. Southern Kansas is within the general winter range. There are ten museum records of this species from April 8 to May 15, and from August 27 to November.

FAMILY PELECANIDAE—PELICANS.

125. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—White Pelican.

A rather common migrant. Specimens have been found in Kansas from April 16 to May 22, and from October 6 to 12.

FAMILY ANATIDAE—DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS.

129. *Mergus americanus*—Merganser.

A not uncommon winter resident. It has not been observed by the writer. There are a few museum records for the winter months and one for April 11.

130. *Mergus serrator*—Red-breasted Merganser.

A rare winter resident. There are museum records for April 3 and April 19.

131. *Lophodytes cucul'atus*—Hooded Merganser.

A rare winter and summer resident and a common migrant. There are no data available as to migration.

132. *Anas platyrhynchos*—Mallard.

A common migrant and rare winter or summer resident. Mallards vary much in their movements, according to season. If the season be open they begin moving early in February, while in other conditions they may not begin to move till well along in March. Their stay is short, though individuals, apparently not summer residents, may remain till the middle of April. Fall migration, late September and October, and up to cold weather.

133. *Anas rubripes*—Black Duck.

A rare migrant. There are three museum records, October 21 to November 25, the latter in Pratt County.

134a. *Anas fulvigula maculosa*—Mottled Duck.

A rare migrant. One observed October 6.

135. *Chaulelasmus streperus*—Gadwall.

A common migrant and rare summer resident. Probably a rare winter resident. Five museum records between March 20 and April 11, and one for October 28; one also for February 22.

137. *Mareca americana*—Baldpate.

A common migrant and rare summer resident. Kansas is within the winter range. Museum records show migration between March 2 and April 18.

139. *Nettion carolinense*—Green-winged Teal.

A common migrant and rare winter resident. Museum and fall records show migration from March 2 to April 20, and from October 6 to November 19. There are records also for December and February.

140. *Querquedula discors*—Blue-winged Teal.

A common migrant and occasional summer resident. Abundant field notes for the spring of 1917 show first observation March 30; common April 6; still fairly common May 20. Seen in fall on October 6.

141. *Querquedula cyanoptera*—Cinnamon Teal.

As a migrant, rare in eastern Kansas, common in western Kansas. A specimen was taken in Rice County on April 24. There is no other record of time of migration at hand.

142. *Spatula clypeata*—Shoveller.

A common migrant and rare summer resident. Kansas is within the winter range. It was abundantly observed from March 15 to May 7 and on October 28.

143. *Dafila acuta*—Pintail.

Migrant and winter resident. Twenty-four specimens in the museum were taken February 12 to April 23, mostly from vicinity of Lawrence. They should return about October 1st and remain until the rivers freeze over.

144. *Aix sponsa*—Wood Duck.

Now nearly extinct. The museum contains five specimens, taken between March 15 and May 9, and specimens also on October 17 and 24.

146. *Marila americana*—Redhead.

A common migrant, remaining but a short time, in both spring and fall. Seven specimens were taken by the museum from March 6 to 28. In the fall they should return about October 1 and remain but a short time.

147. *Marila valisineria*—Canvas-back.

A common migrant. There are nine museum specimens from March 7 to April 5, which agrees with records of other localities. There are no records of fall migration at hand.

148. *Marila marila*—Scaup Duck.

A rare migrant. No data at hand.

149. *Marila affinis*—Lesser Scaup Duck.

A fairly common migrant. Twenty-three specimens have been taken by the museum between March 1 and May 22. They were observed in considerable numbers in 1917 from May 14 to May 20. The writer has no fall records.

150. *Marila collaris*—Ring-necked Duck.

A migrant now rare. It has been taken by the museum from February 12 to March 26.

151. *Clangula clangula americana*—Golden-eye.

A rare migrant. Three specimens in museum taken March 2 and 19.

152. *Clangula islandica*—Barrow's Golden-eye.

As a winter resident, rare. There are two records for December 11 and four from March 10 to 27.

153. *Charitonetta albeola*—Buffle-head.

This species is a common migrant. This state is within the winter range. There are five museum specimens taken from March 6 to 19 and one on November 9.

167. *Erismatura jamaicensis*—Ruddy Duck.

Now a rare migrant. Kansas is within summer range of this species. Twelve specimens have been taken by museum between March 28 and May 6.

169. *Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*—Lesser Snow Goose.

A common migrant. Kansas is within its winter range. The only museum records are for April 3 and 8.

169. *Chen cærulescens*—Blue Goose.

A rare migrant. The only museum specimen bears date March 18.

171a. *Anser albifrons gambeli*—White-fronted Goose.

A common migrant. The two museum records are for February 14 and March 1.

172. *Branta canadensis canadensis*—Canada Goose.

A common migrant. This goose migrates very early, sometimes in January. The migration is over about March 15. They return in late September, October and November.

172a. *Branta canadensis hutchinsi*—Hutchin's Goose.

This goose is a common migrant. Its winter range comes within Kansas. The two specimens at museum were taken March 2 and April 3.

180. *Otor columbianus*—Whistling Swan.

A not uncommon migrant and winter resident. They have been

captured by museum on December 11, April 1, April 6, April 26, and in the winter months. They do not arrive till late in the fall.

181. *Olor buccinator*—Trumpeter Swan.

A rare migrant. The only record is for March 23, 1888.

FAMILY IBIDIDAE—IBISES.

An interesting feature of this group of heron-like birds is that the southern species, which make up the main part of the group, will often wander far north of their breeding range after nesting.

187. *Plegadis guarauna*—White-faced Glossy Ibis.

This species rarely wanders over Kansas after breeding season.

FAMILY ARDEIDAE—BITTERNS, HERONS, ETC.

190. *Botaurus lentiginosus*—Bittern.

A common summer resident. They were seen daily in 1917 after May 10, though none were observed before. Museum records, however, show specimens taken on April 4, 13, 16, 23, 26, 28 and 30. The thoroughness of the field work in April over regions where they later appeared makes it seem probable that they came later this year on account of the backwardness of the season. The last museum record is November 5. Records of other states make it appear probable that they remain somewhat later.

191. *Ixobrychus exilis*—Least Bittern.

A not uncommon summer resident. They come later and leave earlier than the last. Four specimens in museum taken between May 14 and 28. Records from other states would make it probable that they come somewhat earlier.

194. *Ardea herodias herodias*—Great Blue Heron.

A common summer resident. Museum and field records show residence from March 20 till September 15. Other states show records which makes it seem probable that they come somewhat earlier than this and remain somewhat later.

196. *Herodias egretta*—Egret.

After the breeding season is over, egrets, whose summer home is considerably south of Kansas, will not infrequently wander over the state.

197. *Egretta thula thula*—Snowy Heron.

This heron likewise wanders over Kansas after the close of the breeding season.

200. *Florida cærulea*—Little Blue Heron.

This bird rarely strays over the state after the breeding season.

201. *Butorides virescens virescens*—Green Heron.

A common summer resident. Museum and field notes show the first arrival as April 27. They begin to leave about September 1; the last record being September 16.

202. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*—Black-crowned Night Heron.

A rare summer resident. The first museum record is April 8; the last September 28. They probably remain later.

203. *Nyctanassa violacea*—Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

Rare as summer resident. They probably come later than the last.

FAMILY GRUIDAE—CRANES.

204. *Limnogeranus americanus*—Whooping Crane.

A rare migrant. The one museum record is for October 13, 1906, in Ford County, Bucklin.

205. *Grus canadensis*—Little Brown Crane.

A common migrant, but not seen by writer in 1917. The one specimen at museum bears date of April 1.

206. *Grus canadensis mexicana*—Sandhill Crane.

A common migrant. They should pass through about March 15 to May 15 and return from about September 20 on into November. The writer has seen them in the first half of May.

FAMILY RALLIDAE—RAIL, GALLINULES AND COOTS.

208. *Rallus elegans*—King Rail.

A common summer resident. Museum and field notes give April 11, 17 and 23 and indicate the date of spring arrival. The last fall record is October 10.

212. *Rallus virginianus*—Virginia Rail.

This rail is a common migrant and a very rare summer resident. The writer has no records of this species. The notes from other states show that it should come about May 1 and return about September 15. Each season of migration is brief.

214. *Porzana carolina*—Sora.

A common summer resident. Museum and field records show that they arrive about May 10 (earliest record May 11) and are common thereafter. They leave mostly in September. The last museum record is October 10.

215. *Coturnicops noveboracensis*—Yellow Rail.

A rare summer resident. The only museum records are April 6 and 18 and October 1.

216. *Creciscus jamaicensis*—Black Rail.

Classed as a rare summer resident. No records of migration.

218. *Ionornis martinicus*—Purple Gallinule.

Occasional; probably wanders after breeding season, since Kansas is north of regular breeding area.

221. *Fulica americana*—Coot.

A common summer resident. The coot varies greatly from year to year in migration movements. None were seen in 1917 till May 10, after which they were observed daily. They have been taken on March 29. One specimen in museum bears date of October 10.

FAMILY PHALAROPODIDAE—PHALAROPES.

223. *Lobipes lobatus*—Northern Phalarope.

A rare migrant. No records.

224. *Steganopus tricolor*—Wilson's Phalarope.

A common migrant. The earliest record of Wilson's Phalarope is April 24. They were common until May 15, and there is one record for May 29. According to notes from other localities the female should begin returning south the middle of July, and the males and young should be gone for the most part by the middle of August.

FAMILY RECURVIROSTRIDAE—AVOCETS AND STILTS.

225. *Recurvicostra americana*—Avocet.

A common migrant and rare summer resident. Museum records for this species are as follows: April 11, Douglas County; April 16, southern Kansas; April 24 (2), Rice County; October 3, Douglas County; October 20, Osborne County.

FAMILY SCOLOPACIDAE—SNIPES, SANDPIPERS, AND CURLEWS.

230. *Gallinago delicata*—Wilson's Snipe.

A very common migrant. In 1917 they first appeared on March 27. Thereafter they were abundant until April 24, when they became distinctly fewer in numbers, though still fairly common. The last specimen was seen on May 21. One was collected in Pratt County on March 1. Incomplete fall records show presence from October 10 to 22. They probably continue until well into November.

232. *Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus*—Long-billed Dowitcher.

A common migrant. It was not observed in the field by the writer. There are museum records for April 18 and 29, and October 6 and 10.

233. *Micropalama himantopus*—Stilt Sandpiper.

A common migrant. It was not observed in the field. The museum records for April 28, May 1, 9, September 9, and October 10, are too incomplete to indicate the range of migration.

239. *Pisobia maculata*—Pectoral Sandpiper.

A common migrant. Abundant records from March 16 to May 21 show that this is the period of spring migration. They should return in September and October. The one fall record is for November 3.

240. *Pisobia fusicollis*—White-rumped Sandpiper.

A common migrant. Abundant spring records show them present from April 29 to May 17. One specimen was taken in Clark County June 10.

241. *Pisobia bairdi*—Baird's Sandpiper.

A migrant not common. There are five records in the museum catalogue from April 11 to 19.

242. *Pisobia minutilla*—Least Sandpiper.

A common migrant. Museum records extend from April 22 to May 21. Field observations in 1917 show them common only in the early part of May. No data at hand on fall movements.

243a. *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*—Red-backed Sandpiper.

A rare migrant. The one museum record is May 11, 1885.

246. *Ereunetes pusillus*—Semipalmated Sandpiper.

A common migrant. This species was not identified in the field. Twenty museum records extend from April 29 to May 20.

247. *Ereunetes mauri*—Western Sandpiper.

An occasional migrant. Nine museum records extend from May 1 to June 1.

249. *Limosa fedoa*—Marbled Godwit.

An occasional migrant. The only record is for Shawnee County, April 21.

251. *Vetola hæmastica*—Hudsonian Godwit.

A rare migrant. Ten museum records are from April 19 to May 13.

254. *Glottis melanoleuca*—Greater Yellow-legs.

A common migrant. Abundant museum and field records show the migration to be from March 26 to April 21. One was observed May 13. The only fall records at hand are for September 29 and October 29.

255. *Iliornis flavipes*—Yellow-legs.

This species, likewise, is a common migrant. The first record is on March 29. They are abundant on the records from April 16 to June 1. The fall migration should be in August and September.

256. *Helodromas solitarius solitarius*—Solitary Sandpiper.

A common migrant. Abundant museum and field records show the spring migration to be from April 6 to May 14. Three fall records are at hand, July 29, September 19, October 5.

258. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*—Willett.

An occasional migrant. The specimens were taken on May 6, 1909.

258a. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*—Western Willett.

Also an occasional migrant. Five specimens were taken by museum from April 24 to 27, and two in Pratt County on May 3.

261. *Bartamia longicauda*—Upland Plover.

A fairly common summer resident. They should arrive in April and leave about September 1.

262. *Tryngites subruficollis*—Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

A rare migrant. The only two records at hand are for April 29.

263. *Actitis macularia*—Spotted Sandpiper.

A common summer resident and more abundant migrant. They were very abundant in 1917 from May 1 to 20. Specimens were taken by museum in previous years on April 7 and 20. They should leave early in September.

264. *Numenius americanus*—Long-billed Curlew.

A common migrant and rare summer resident. They were not observed in field by writer. The migration should be mainly in May and September. One museum specimen taken April 19.

FAMILY CHARADRIIDAE—PLOVERS.

270. *Squatarola squatarola*—Black-bellied Plover.

An occasional migrant. There are two museum records, May 22 (Wichita County), and October 29.

272. *Charadrius dominicus dominicus*—Golden Plover.

Common spring migrant. In the fall, however, it flies from Canada across the Atlantic to South America. This species was not observed in the field by the writer. Its migration should be mostly in April. Specimens have been taken by the museum on March 29 and April 1. One was also taken on October 23, 1910, which would indicate that rarely they return south by the inland route.

273. *Oxyechus vociferus*—Killdeer.

An abundant summer resident. In 1917 it was observed abundantly in the field on April 13, and daily thereafter. They leave for the most part by the middle of October, though one specimen in museum bears date of November 27.

274. *Charadrius semipalmatus*—Semipalmated Plover.

A migrant, but not common. Twelve specimens have been taken by the museum from April 22 to May 15, and one on September 19.

277. *Charadrius melodus*—Piping Plover.

Rare. Kansas is within the breeding ground. One specimen taken by the museum on April 27.

278. *Leucopholus nivosa alexandrinus*—Snowy Plover.

A rare summer resident in southwestern Kansas. One was taken in Douglas County April 22. Three were captured in Clark County on June 6.

281. *Podasocys montanus*—Mountain Plover.

A common summer resident in western Kansas. The only migration record of the museum is one taken in Haskell County on May 15.

(Continued in March issue.)

REVISORY NOTES ON THE LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA.

BY MYRON H. SWENK.

In November, 1914, the writer presented a list of the native birds known to occur or to have occurred within the present limits of the state of Nebraska, and this list was published in the "Nebraska Blue Book" for 1915, early in that year. In this list 418 species and subspecies were recorded for the state. During the four years since the compilation of this list, considerable field work has been carried on by several of the members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, and at the same time many of the older records have been critically reviewed. As a result of these activities, it now seems necessary to add fifteen birds to the 1914 list and to drop six birds from it, while the breeding of four birds within the state which were not or not definitely classified as breeders in 1914 has been established. The data on which these changes rest is briefly included in the following notes:

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence)).—On June 3, 1916, Mr. Cyrus Black found three nests of this grebe at Island Lake, north of Oshkosh, Garden County, Nebhaska, one containing three fresh eggs, one four nearly fresh eggs, and one five eggs nearly ready to hatch, with a newly hatched bird near by. The male parent and the young bird, together with the nest with four eggs, were collected and are now in Mr. Black's collection. The next year, 1917, Mr. Black and Mr. A. M. Brooking took a female western grebe and five sets of fresh eggs, with nests, in a small lake in Garden County, on June 19. These are the first records of the breeding of this bird in the state.

Black-throated Loon (*Gavia arctica* (Linnaeus)).—All of the several statements concerning the occurrence of the black-throated loon in Nebraska depend back upon the record published in 1904 (Birds of Nebraska, p. 17) of a specimen taken at Curtis, Frontier County, and now in the Rees Heaton collection at that place. At the request of the Biological Survey this specimen was subjected to a careful study. It is in immature plumage and resembles in size and the broad edgings of the back feathers immature specimens of the black-throated loon, but Dr. H. C. Oberholser pronounced

it to be an immature common loon (*G. immer*) after an examination of the specimen. Accordingly, this species is to be stricken from the Nebraska list, as, in fact, it probably will be from most of the other lists of the United States, for the real winter home of this bird is in Asia and no authentic records of *G. arctica* for this county seem to exist.

Water Turkey (*Anhinga anhinga* (Linnaeus)).—This bird is now definitely to be added to the Nebraska list, as on September 20, 1913, Mr. Oscar Blevins caught one with a fish spear on the Loup river in Buffalo County, on the Josh Woods ranch. It was mounted by the Northwestern School of Taxidermy at Omaha, and it as present in the B. J. Olsen collection at Kearney.

Red-legged Black Duck (*Anas rubripes rubripes* (Brewster)).—The decision that this is a valid subspecies (cf. Oberholser, Auk, XXXIV, pp. 192-194) reinstates it in the Nebraska list on the basis of records already published (cf. Swenk, Auk, XXII, p. 319) as well as several additional unpublished records.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus* (Linnaeus)).—This bird was included in Prof. Bruner's list (1896) and in subsequent lists on the strength of a specimen taken near Omaha, now in the University Museum, and later two specimens in the L. Sessions collection, taken at Norfolk, were also referred to this species. An examination of all three of these specimens shows them to be immature birds, and, as Dr. Oberholser informs me, neither he nor Mr. Ridgway have been able to discover any character by which the immature birds of *P. falcinellus* and *P. guarauna* can be distinguished, and as the latter species has several unquestionable Nebraska records, the propriety of dropping the glossy ibis as a Nebraska bird is evident.

White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna* (Linnaeus)).—About the middle of May, 1916, several white-faced glossy ibises appeared at the large lagoon near Inland, Clay County, Nebraska. On June 4, Messrs. A. M. Brooking and Edward Wallace set out to secure a pair of these birds, and, while attempting to approach them, met a farmer who had just driven out into the lagoon in his buggy and who reported that he had flushed an ibis from a nest containing four eggs. The nest was located by Brooking and Wallace and the bird was observed to return to it. The nest and eggs were then collected, and later both the female and male birds were also taken. This is the first record of the breeding of this bird in the state.

Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana* (Linnaeus)).—There have been several reports of the seeing or shooting of wood ibises in Nebraska, but most of these have been alone insufficient to definitely place the bird on the state list. In April, 1885, Mr. William Townsley shot one of these birds in Hamilton County, Nebraska, on Sec-

tion 19, of Township 9, Range 6. It was a young bird, but Mr. Townsley succeeded in mounting it very satisfactorily, and it is now in the A. M. Brooking collection at Grand Island College. This, together with other undoubted records of the occurrence of this bird where the specimens were unfortunately not preserved, entitles it to inclusion in the Nebraska list.

Ward Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias wardi* (Ridgway)).—A male specimen of this heron, examined and identified by Dr. Oberholser, was collected at Curtis, Frontier County, and is now in the Rees Heaton collection at that place. It presents the following measurements: Wing, 506; culmen, 158; depth of bill at base, 31.5; tarsus, 203. This form of the great blue heron has not previously been recorded from Nebraska.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius* (Linnaeus)).—This bird was included in the 1915 Nebraska list on the basis of the bird supposed to have been shot on a sand bar in the Missouri river below Sioux City in November, 1912, reported by Prof. T. C. Stephens (Antea, XXVI, p. 103). The subsequent discovery that the specimen was collected near McCook lake, above Sioux City in South Dakota, as corrected by Prof. Stephens (Antea, XXVIII, p. 92) makes necessary the elimination of this species from the Nebraska list.

Wilson Snipe (*Gallinago delicata* (Ord)).—In the spring of 1915 Mr. C. A. Black flushed a Wilson snipe from a grass tuft in a bog near Shafer Lake, in Garden County, Nebraska, and shot it. In the grass tuft he found four eggs, just hatching. The bird, nest and fragments of the eggs are in his collection at Kearney at the present time.

Northern Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus occidentalis* (Woodhouse)).—In the August Eiche collection at Lincoln are five long-billed curlews, all from Nebraska, three of which Dr. Oberholser has identified as *N. a. americanus* and two as *N. a. occidentalis*, thus establishing the place of both forms on the Nebraska list. The breeding form is *N. a. americanus*.

Eastern Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis* (Linnaeus)).—All of the specimens of the mourning doves from Nebraska seem best referable to the western subspecies, *Z. m. marginella*, so, for the present at least, the eastern form had best be dropped from the state list.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wilson)).—The record of the taking of a specimen of this bird in Nebraska has already been published by the late Prof. B. H. Bailey (Antea, XXVII, pp. 407-408).

Western Goshawk (*Astur gentilis striatulus* (Ridgway)).—Of twenty-seven goshawk records for Nebraska (of which nine were

made in the fall and winter of 1916-17), twenty-one are *A. g. atricapillus* and six are best referred to *A. g. striatulus*. Dr. Oberholser has seen and identified some of these birds. Three of the *striatulus* specimens are quite typical. This bird has not previously been definitely included in the Nebraska list.

Northwestern Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus lagophonus* (Oberholser)).—During the winter of 1916-17 a very large and dark horned owl was killed at Lisco, Garden County, Nebraska, and sent to Mr. C. A. Black, of Kearney, for mounting. It was purchased by Mr. Black, and later disposed of to Mr. A. M. Brooking, of Inland, along with a somewhat smaller and less dark specimen killed at Imperial, Chase County, Nebraska, October 28, 1917. Both birds have been studied by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, at Washington, and referred to the above subspecies. The Lisco bird is a female, with a wing of 390 mm., while the wing of the Imperial bird, also a female, is 382 mm. long. This substantiates the inclusion of a fourth subspecies of great horned owl in the Nebraska list, viz., *B. v. virginianus* as a resident bird in eastern Nebraska, *B. v. occidentalis* (= *B. v. pallescens*, in part, of A. O. U. Check-List) as a resident bird in western Nebraska, spreading eastward across the state in the fall and winter, *B. v. subarcticus* as a winter visitor from the north, and *B. v. lagophonus* (= *B. v. saturatus*, in part, of A. O. U. Check-List) as a winter visitor from the northwest. This latter subspecies has not before been authoritatively identified from Nebraska specimens.

California Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis* (Ridgway)).—The birds of western Nebraska previously identified as *C. a. occidentalis* have been examined by Dr. Oberholser and referred to *C. a. americanus*. The California cuckoo is, therefore, to be eliminated from the Nebraska list.

Alpine Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides americanus dorsalis* (Baird)).—This bird is added to the Nebraska list through a male specimen taken seven miles west of Scottsbluff, Scottsbluff County, Nebraska, June 15, 1916, by C. E. Mickel and R. W. Dawson. Identification confirmed by Dr. Oberholser.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri* (Bourcier & Mulsant)).—In August, 1903, Mr. C. A. Black secured a female of this species at Kearney, Buffalo County, Nebraska. The specimen has been examined and the above identification corroborated by Dr. Oberholser. The mounted specimen is now in the B. J. Olsen collection at Kearney.

Western Wood Pewee (*Horizopus richardsoni richardsoni* (Swainson)).—On June 18, 1916, in company with Messrs. C. E. Mickel and R. W. Dawson, the writer found this bird common in the woods along the North Platte river at Henry, Scottsbluff County, Ne-

braska, and completed nests, however all without eggs, were found, thus placing the bird definitely as a breeder within our borders.

Black-headed Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri annectens* (Baird), and Long-crested Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri diademata* (Bonaparte)).—In April, 1891, Prof. Bruner saw, but did not secure, a jay of the species *Cyanocitta stelleri* on the timber reserve west of Fort Robinson, in Sioux County, Nebraska. This bird he referred to *C. s. annectens* (Notes on Nebr. Birds, 1896, p. 118) on the basis of greatest probability. In October, 1916, Ora Randall and Lester Goldberry shot a jay while it was feeding along the water's edge on the bank of the Tri-state canal near Mitchell, Scottsbluff County, Nebraska. They very generously donated this specimen to the University collection, and Dr. Oberholser has identified it as *C. s. diademata*. This throws a very serious doubt on the correct subspecific identification of the bird seen by Prof. Bruner, and for the present *annectens* had probably best be dropped from the Nebraska list and the Sioux County record referred to *diademata*.

Northern Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius predatorius arctolegus* (Oberholser)).—This recently described race, as yet unrecognized by the A. O. U. Committee, occurs infrequently as a migrant in eastern Nebraska.

Spurred Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus montanus* (Swarth)).—On October 5, 1915, a towhee was brought to Prof. Wilson Tout, Superintendent of Schools, North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, which he recognized as different from the common Arctic towhee (*P. m. arcticus*). The bird was badly decomposed and its feathers were falling out, so that it could not be saved, but Prof. Tout forwarded an outer rectrix and a foot to me for examination. Comparison with a series of the Arctic towhee in the University collection indicated that the bird must have been the spurred towhee, but to make the identification certain the feather and foot were submitted to Dr. H. C. Oberholser, and he, after comparison with the series at Washington, stated that these parts were from *P. m. montanus*. This constitutes the first definite record of the spurred towhee for Nebraska.

Alaska Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa* (Pallas)).—On May 15, 1901, Mr. R. Mullen collected an adult male yellow warbler at Child's Point, near Omaha, in Sharpy County, Nebraska. The unusually dark color of the upper parts of this bird caused me to send it to Dr. H. C. Oberholser for accurate identification, and he reported it to belong to the above form. This specimen is now in the University collection. Later, Dr. Oberholser pronounced a mounted adult female bird collected by Mr. A. Eiche at Greenwood, Cass County, on May 13, 1907, and now in his collection, as also

representative of the Alaskan form. A third specimen is in the Rees Heaton collection and presumably was taken at Curtis, Frontier County, Nebraska. Apparently this previously overlooked form of the yellow warbler is not rare as a migrant through Nebraska in middle May.

Desert Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus* (Oberholser)).—On April 21, 1915, Mr. C. A. Black collected a specimen of this wren at Oshkosh, Garden County, Nebraska, thus adding a new bird to the Nebraska list. The identification is by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. This form is regarded by the A. O. U. Committee as not separable from *T. b. bairdi*.

This gives a list of 427 species and subspecies for Nebraska, as the avifauna of this state is at present understood.

POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING

On account of the prevalence of the "Spanish" influenza, and also on account of the financial stringency due to the Government bond issue, it has seemed wise to postpone or possibly omit the 1918 annual meeting.

General Notes

BIRD-KILLING CATS WILL BE KILLED.

The following interesting clipping has come to our desk:

Cats with a fondness for birds are in danger, for Governor Whitman has signed a bill providing for their destruction. "Any person over the age of twenty-one years," reads the law, "who is a holder of a valid hunting and trapping license, may, and it shall be the duty of a game protector or other peace officer, to humanely destroy a cat at large found hunting or killing any bird protected by law or with a dead bird of any species protected by law in its possession; and no action for damages shall be maintained for such killing."

Cat bills of many varieties have, in the past, been presented to different state legistures. Some have called for bells on cats, some for collars and licenses, but the present law is the first to be passed in any state. Its promoters have framed it with the idea of attacking, not the well-fed and cared-for house pet, but the wandering, hunting, or homeless cat, which has become so great a menace to our wild-bird life.

Figures gathered by the Conservation Commission indicate that common cats cause more destruction among insectivorous and game birds than any other agency. The present law is intended to encourage all persons, who are sufficiently responsible to carry a gun, to aid in checking the numbers of bird-hunting and bird-killing cats. The new law goes into effect immediately.

NOTES FROM LAKE COUNTY.

OCCURRENCE OF NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—While out on the breakwater, September 29, where of late years I have discovered a number of rare species, I found my first Phalarope swimming along close to the stones, and feeding from the algae growing thereon. I kept just above the bird while he swam along and fed until we reached the lighthouse at the end. The bird was in fall plumage, but still had a strong wash of rufous on sides of neck.

ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—While walking through the cemetery on October 31 (1918) I found a fine male bird of this species working on a live hemlock and not six feet above the ground when first discovered. I had approached within ten feet of the tree, but stopped upon hearing the strong taps of a woodpecker and a rather unfamiliar "chick-chick" as the bird worked on the other side. He finally moved around to my side of the tree, and while trying to place his identity from the first indistinct side view, he suddenly looked square in my direction and I was dumfounded

to see a yellow crown patch glowing like a gold coin. He did not leave the tree nor ascend above fifteen feet during my stay, and in fact must have been there all day, if not longer, for the bark on one side was chipped off and pecked full of holes from the ground to a height of thirty feet, as was also another hemlock and a white pine close by. I certainly never expected to meet with my first Arctic Woodpecker in October, and it is more to be wondered at since the month was very mild, with no heavy storms.

HOLBŒLL'S AND HORNED GREBES.—I wish to correct a statement made by me in the December, 1916, Bulletin concerning the (apparent) abundance of Holbœll's Grebe for October of that year; and to give the true status of the two species as I have found them to occur *here* along the lake. January 30, 1913, while seated on the end of the pier at Fairport, a Holbœll's Grebe approached until finally it was just below me in the open water that extended a short distance out in the lake. My notes taken on the spot, at such close range, gave an ideal description of the Holbœll's winter plumage and the length was easily computed to be at least twenty inches. The bill was described as being "long, sharp and yellow at the base, at least two inches long." The following January (1914) a bird of this species was shot by a local hunter and I examined the bird, which tallied closely with the one of the winter before. So much for the Holbœll's.

In October, 1916, a number of grebes were seen on the lake, which I reported as Holbœll's; but later I suspected I had been mistaken and that they were the Horned Grebe in fall plumage. However, it was not until this fall (1918) that I was able to measure and examine a number of specimens killed by hunters. I found my suspicions to be correct, they all proved to be the Horned. So the status of the birds stand as follows. The Horned Grebe is a rather common spring and fall migrant. I counted over twenty one day in October of 1917 around the piers at Fairport. The Holbœll's may be designated as rare and occurring on the lake during the winter months when there is open water. It is a much larger bird than the Horned and with a decidedly longer bill, and not so white on the neck; but at a distance on the dancing waves the Horned Grebe looks larger than he really is—probably because of the long neck, which is usually stretched its full length.

E. A. DOOLITTLE.

Painesville, Ohio.

THE OSPREY AT CHICAGO, ILL.

The occasions are rare when one observes the Osprey in the vicinity of Chicago. The writer does not recall having ever observed it a half dozen times in thirty years, although he remem-

bers clearly that two of his boyhood friends had single specimens which they had killed in this vicinity. In Chapman's book Mr. B. F. Gault is credited with two observations at Glen Ellyn. Curiously one of the dates (given specifically in Mr. Woodruff's list of birds of this area) was May 15, 1894. On the same date of the present year, in a district quite as characteristic of prairie environment as Glen Ellyn—viz., Chicago Ridge, it was my good fortune to observe an Osprey in the act of fishing, to observe the catch and to see the fisher, after adjusting his prey so as to carry it parallel with his body, bear it high aloft and far away until both bird and burden were lost to sight.

Preparing to leave the field near the Calumet feeder of the old Illinois and Michigan canal I noticed the Osprey poised above the channel. I saw at once that he was about to plunge, but a fringe of old cat-tails obscured my view of him when he struck the water. With good glasses I saw him rise presently and could even see the yellow belly of the struggling cat-fish he had seized. A single redwing harassed him for a moment, he turned in my direction, and twisting the fish about as remarked above, he flew over my head and passed rapidly northward.

Almost I was prepared to realize in fact my old "fourth reader" story and to see a bald eagle come swooping upon the fish hawk out of the clouds. Perhaps in another thirty years I may see that too!

EDWARD R. FORD.

SOME OHIO RECORDS AND NOTES.

Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) in Clinton County.

Writing under date of April 4, 1916, Orange Frazer reports the capture of a young bird of this species near Wilmington, on July 23, 1909. It was held in captivity for some days, but was finally released. It is reported to have died shortly after it was released. An account of this capture was published in an issue of the Wilmington, Ohio, Journal-Republican at some date subsequent to April 4, 1916. This account is stated to be a reprint from an issue of the Clinton Republican of July 1, 1909. The boys who made the capture were Howard Bryan and Willard Wildman. The account includes a full description with careful measurements. There seems to be no doubt about the correctness of the identification.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) in Ashtabula County.

On page 286 of Vol. 34 of the Auk, in F. Seymour Hersey's discussion of "The Status of the Black-throated Loon (*Gavia arctica*) as a North American Bird," I find this quotation from myself: "Dr. Wheaton mentions the capture of one specimen, but on hearsay evidence. I had several reports of specimens captured by trust-

worthy persons, but I cannot vouch for them personally. A specimen was sent to me two years ago from Painesville, purporting to be a Black-throated, but I did not make it out as such, and so sent it to Oberholser, who pronounced it a Red-throated." I could never make the specimen out anything but a Pacific (*Gavia pacifica*), hence the record was never published. Upon an inquiry about the specimen from Mr. A. C. Bent, the description and measurements were sent to him, with an offer of the specimen should he desire to examine it. In reply Mr. Bent states that there can be no question that the specimen is *pacifica*. Therefore this is the first Ohio record for this species.

The bird was shot by some fishermen at Ashtabula Harbor, on February 19, 1909, and was sent to the Oberlin College museum by Dr. A. W. Hopkins. LYNDS JONES.

THE FALL MIGRATION OF 1918 IN NORTHERN OHIO.

Winter rarely begins in earnest in northern Ohio before the first week in December. At the present writing (December 6) the ground is still unfrozen, the grass is green, many hardy plants are still growing. There have been two light falls of snow, which would be called hardly more than traces, because they disappeared during the day after the fall occurred.

In marked contrast, the middle of October, 1917, witnessed the beginning of that memorable cold winter season. But preceding that early wintry weather there had been weeks of unusually low temperature, during which most of the insectivorous birds left for their winter homes. As far as the bird life was concerned winter had set in during the middle of October.

In spite of the late frost and the almost continuous warm weather of September and October, 1918, the southward movement of the birds occurred this year at the same time that it did last year. It seemed strange indeed to go into the woods in October, when warblers and sparrows and thrushes may usually be found, and meet only the regular winter birds, grouped in their regular companies.

If it be true that the experience of one unfavorable season is enough to cause an early migration the next season, even when the conditions are favorable for a later stay, it would seem that the point that young birds migrate because of the example set by the older birds is well taken. LYNDS JONES.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,

Of The Wilson Bulletin, published quarterly at Oberlin, Ohio, for October 1, 1918.

State of Ohio,
County of Lorain, ss.

Before me, a notary public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Lynds Jones, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of The Wilson Bulletin and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.
Editor, Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.
Managing Editor, Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.
Business Manager, George L. Fordyce, Youngstown, Ohio.

2. That the owners are:

Wilson Ornithological Club.
Myron H. Swenk, President, Lincoln, Nebraska.
George L. Fordyce, Vice-President, Youngstown, Ohio.
W. F. Ganier, Secretary, Nashville, Tennessee.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are:

Not a gainful publication.

LYNDS JONES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of October, 1918.

[seal] CHARLES A. HAMMOND.
(My commission expires March 23, 1920.)

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and

The Nebraska Ornithological Union
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